



A Message from your Battalion Commanding Officer

Marines and Family Members of 2/25 -

We had a great annual training period in July at Ft. Drum. Your professionalism, confidence and proficiency in your MOS showed throughout those 14 days of training. We accomplished much and also exposed some of our weaknesses. We will work on improving those areas that need improvement in order to be fully prepared for whatever task lies ahead for us as a Battalion.

Over our September drill period, my wife Michele and I got to meet several family members during Family Day activities. It was great to see that we have very engaged families who are truly interested in what their Marine is accomplishing. I want to thank the families for entrusting their most precious asset to the leadership of 2/25.

Let me reiterate what I said during family day: I have the responsibility for training your Marines and providing them with the best equipment available in order to accomplish their mission. We don't know what mission we'll get assigned in the future, as the future is rapidly changing. But, I do

know that we'll be ready when the time comes. We have great Marines who have a determination to be the best in everything they do. Additionally, we have solid leadership amongst the Battalion's officers and staff NCOs who will hold your Marines to the highest of standards. I'm confident that we have laid a foundation in the past 6 months in order to be capable of operating in any 'clime or place'. I look forward to our fall training plan as we build on that foundation and our capabilities.

Lastly, let's ensure we reconnect with our heritage and recommit ourselves during the USMC Birthday Ball in November. This next year we will train harder than last year; we will honor and remember our fallen brothers and sisters; we will rededicate ourselves to the warrior ethos; we will train those new Marines to the standards so that they can carry on after us; and we will be ready when the call comes.

Semper Fidelis,
LtCol Dan Whisnant

A Message from your Battalion Sergeant Major

Marines, Sailors and Families -

I hope that everyone enjoyed the summer months. As we transition to the fall, please take a moment and reflect on those we lost. We will carry on with our traditions and honor their memories.

With the DADT ("Don't Ask, Don't Tell") repeal, our Marine Corps has entered into a new era. With that said, we are all required to follow the directions given to us from higher, and we will continue to provide sound leadership, professionalism, discipline, and be respectful to all. Personal views are a non-issue, enough said!

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Continue to practice sound judgment while driving and riding motorcycles. We have withstood earthquakes and foul weather; stay prepared and continue to communicate up and down the chain of command.

Please plan to volunteer assistance to support the Toys for Tots program if you are able. I look forward to seeing you and your guest at the upcoming USMC Birthday ball! I am sure it will be another memorable event.

Semper Fidelis,
SgtMaj James T. Adams



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2d Battalion 25th Marines Recent Promotions & Awards

Congratulations to our Marines who were promoted to the following ranks:

H&S Co

Sgt Ortiz, I. R. promoted on 1 Jul 2011
Sgt Osorio, W. promoted on 1 Jul 2011
Cpl Cooper, D. promoted on 1 Jul 2011
Cpl Dugan, A. S. promoted on 1 Jul 2011
Cpl Ferrera, B. C. promoted on 1 Jul 2011
Cpl Laguna, L. promoted on 1 Jul 2011
Cpl Leszewski Jr, P. J. promoted on 1 Jul 2011
LCpl Fox, D. M. promoted on 1 Jul 2011
LCpl Sidote, C. A. promoted on 1 Jul 2011
LCpl Skubik, R. M. promoted on 1 Jul 2011
LCpl Solibeyvicioso, M. A. promoted on 1 Jul 2011
PFC Sakoe, R. D. promoted 1 Jul 2011
PFC Singh, N. promoted on 1 Jul 2011
PFC Suleman, M. promoted on 1 Jul 2011
LCpl Behrens, C. M. promoted on 1 Aug 2011
PFC Glenn, J. V. promoted on 1 Aug 2011
LCpl Hidalgo, B. Y. promoted on 1 Aug 2011
LCpl Williams J. J. promoted on 1 Aug 2011
LCpl Chavez, R. O. promoted on 1 Sep 2011
PFC Myers Jr, J. promoted on 1 Sep 2011

Wpns Co

Sgt Caesar, W. W. promoted on 1 Jul 2011
Sgt DiazGarcia, P. E. promoted on 1 Jul 2011
Cpl Hasbun, J. A. promoted on 1 Jul 2011
Cpl McGlynn, G. J. promoted on 1 Jul 2011
Cpl Wager, J. R. promoted on 1 Jul 2011
LCpl Ventura, W. R. promoted on 1 Jul 2011
PFC Gonzales, M. M. promoted on 1 Jul 2011
LCpl Desfosse, G. F. promoted on 1 Aug 2011
LCpl Hartman JR, G. J. promoted on 1 Aug 2011
LCpl Mahoney, G. T. promoted 1 Aug 2011
PFC France, I. K. promoted on 1 Aug 2011
LCpl Boyer, J. M. promoted on 1 Sep 2011
LCpl Chan, K. promoted on 1 Sep 2011
LCpl Jounghblood, M. D. promoted on 1 Sep 2011
PFC Coraggio, S. T. promoted on 1 Sep 2011

Co E

Sgt Carl, J. T. promoted on 1 Jul 2011
Sgt Kopil, M. T. promoted on 1 Jul 2011
Cpl EspinalDiaz, M. D. promoted on 1 Jul 2011

Co E (cont'd)

Cpl Oreilly, C. J. promoted on 1 Jul 2011

Cpl Thompson, D. R. promoted on 1 Jul 2011
Cpl Winkler, D. J. promoted on 1 Jul 2011
LCpl Keats, M. T. promoted on 1 Jul 2011
LCpl Miller II, R. A. promoted on 1 Jul 2011
PFC Joseph, F. A. promoted on 1 Jul 2011
LCpl Belli, S. T. promoted on 1 Aug 2011
LCpl Fleck, L. T. promoted on 1 Aug 2011
LCpl Fricke, S. M. promoted on 1 Aug 2011
PFC Clough, S. C. promoted on 1 Aug 2011
PFC Conner, A. C. promoted on 1 Aug 2011
PFC Deiterich II, G. W. promoted on 1 Aug 2011
PFC Donley, P. D. promoted on 1 Aug 2011
LCpl Hann, J. A. promoted on 1 Sep 2011
LCpl Myers, T. M. promoted on 1 Sep 2011
LCpl Wendlerhaase, R. A. promoted on 1 Sep 2011
PFC McBrien JR, R. M. promoted on 1 Sep 2011

Co F

Sgt Coolidge, D. E. promoted on 1 Jul 2011
Cpl Barrell, K. D. promoted on 1 Jul 2011
Cpl Becker, A. J. promoted on 1 Jul 2011
Cpl Brunetto, W. J. promoted on 1 Jul 2011
Cpl Locke, Z. C. promoted on 1 Jul 2011
Cpl Sells, S. A. promoted on 1 Jul 2011
LCpl Berghammer, E. J. promoted on 1 Jul 2011
LCpl Johnsen II, S. R. promoted on 1 Jul 2011
LCpl Khalil, A. M. promoted on 1 Jul 2011
LCpl Pondolfino, R. O. promoted on 1 Jul 2011
PFC Bowker, K. W. promoted on 1 Jul 2011
PFC Branath, B. J. promoted on 1 Jul 2011
LCpl Petrosino, M. A. promoted on 2 Aug 2011
PFC Kelly, J. W. promoted on 1 Aug 2011
PFC Sincerbeaux, T. J. promoted on 1 Aug 2011
LCpl Genier JR, R. L. promoted on 1 Sep 2011
LCpl Laforge, E. M. promoted on 1 Sep 2011
LCpl Santosuosso, J. P. promoted on 1 Sep 2011
PFC Caputo, D. D. promoted on 1 Sep 2011
PFC Raynor, J. P. promoted on 1 Sep 2011

Co G

Sgt Gaudet, J. L. promoted on 1 Jul 2011
Sgt Stearns, J. B. promoted on 1 Jul 2011
Cpl Carpio, J. promoted on 1 Jul 2011



2nd Battalion 25th Marines Newsletter

Oct – Dec 2011

Cpl Cimmino, B. promoted on 1 Jul 2011
Cpl Elias, J. R. promoted on 1 Jul 2011
Cpl Henkel JR, J. promoted on 1 Jul 2011
Cpl Koetzner, R. R. promoted on 1 Jul 2011
Cpl Law, T. F. promoted on 1 Jul 2011
Cpl Rigby, M. J. promoted on 1 Jul 2011
LCpl Alcantara, I. A. promoted on 1 Jul 2011
LCpl Blewitt, T. P. promoted on 1 Jul 2011
LCpl Cox, D. R. promoted on 1 Jul 2011
LCpl Gigante, D. A. promoted on 1 Jul 2011

LCpl O'Donnell JR, G. T. promoted on 1 Jul 2011
LCpl Richardson, L. promoted on 1 Jul 2011
LCpl Vavosa, F. R. promoted on 1 Jul 2011
PFC Pham, K. S. promoted on 1 Jul 2011
LCpl Sullivan, B. W. promoted on 1 Aug 2011
PFC Mcalister, M. C. promoted on 1 Aug 2011
PFC Moreno, E. promoted on 1 Aug 2011
LCpl Yulick JR, R. A. promoted on 1 Sept 2011

LCpl Lyons, B. M. promoted on 1 Jul 2011

Congratulations to our Marines that have been the recipients of awards this past quarter:

Navy Marine Corps Achievement Medal

Cpl Gillen, K.P.	H&S
SSgt Hinkley, T.J.	G Co
Sgt Hoffman, M.J.	E Co
Cpl Morales, D.	H&S
SSgt Nery J.M.	G Co
Capt Shanley, B.L.	H&S
Sgt Stearns, J.B.	G Co

Certificate of Commendation

LCpl Aguirre, C.M.	H&S
LCpl Belford, D.M.	H&S
Cpl Fasano, J.R.	H&S
Cpl Hutt, N.D.	H&S
Sgt Kalish, T.L.	F Co
Sgt Salka, J.P.	F Co

Certificate of Commendation (cont'd)

Cpl Santos, R.F.	H&S
Sgt Storer, A.E.	H&S

Letter of Appreciation

Sgt Thonus, J.A.	F Co
Sgt Oh, S.	H&S
Sgt Ulubiyo, E.G.	H&S

Meritorious Mast

LCpl Akins, J.C.	H&S
LCpl Arias, J.C.	H&S
LCpl Jones, S.T.	H&S
LCpl Onder Jr, C.K.	H&S
Sgt Ornelas, R.E.	H&S
Sgt Tsatsis, O.A.	H&S
Cpl Zen, P.V.	H&S



Your FRO Can Help

Family readiness plays a vital role in our success. The Battalion's Family Readiness Officer (FRO) is your liaison to the unit and resources in your area. Your FRO and Deputy FROs are here to help! They can provide information for all your family readiness issues. Here are just a few of the more commonly requested topics your FRO can help with.

- Education Assistance
- Employment Assistance
- Childcare Needs
- Personal Counseling
- Financial Counseling
- Housing Issues
- Travel Assistance
- Deployment and Re-Deployment Assistance
- Personal Issues*
- Many Other Topics and Areas

*No information is EVER shared with other service members, volunteers or other family members, unless the individual authorizes the information to be shared. The only exception to this rule is mandatory reporting issues. Mandatory reporting items include, harm, neglect, or a potential embarrassing situation to the command. In these cases, only the Commander, Inspector-Instructor, Sergeant Majors and/or Chaplain would be informed.



Please visit the website at:

<http://www.MilitaryOneSource.com>

Family Readiness Officer (FRO) Contact Information

Battalion FRO: Sergeant Major Pettis, Garden City, NY, (516) 228-2178 jack.pettis@usmc.mil

Company E Deputy FRO: First Sergeant Wolken, Harrisburg, PA, (717) 255-8080 ext.201
jason.wolken@usmc.mil

Company F Deputy FRO: First Sergeant Griffin, Albany, NY, (518) 399-1342 ext. 179 stephen.griffin@usmc.mil

Company G Deputy FRO: First Sergeant Ybarra, Dover, NJ, (973) 724-4700 gerardo.ybarra@usmc.mil



Operational Security (OPSEC)

What is Operational Security (OPSEC)? Operational security consists of measures taken to ensure that sensitive information is not compromised. Deployment locations, times, locations of families during deployments, the planned return date, and any special pre-deployment training are often considered OPSEC information. This information is not for public knowledge. It is provided for sole use by Marines, Sailors and families of the command. The importance of OPSEC will be emphasized during pre-deployment briefs and throughout any future deployments. Please understand that a simple statement you make in passing information or social media post may jeopardize the conduct of operations and the safety of our Marines and Sailors. OPSEC applies not only to deployments, but training and operations. Social media websites such as Facebook, while very popular, are often an enemy's carnival!

Take these measures to maintain OPSEC: Marines and families must: Avoid discussing operational information over the telephone, in public areas, via email or internet "chat", and avoid discussing knowledge of military events with members of the media. Great care should be taken when posting information to internet sites to include, but not limited to, Myspace, Facebook, and Tweeter.

Consequences of OPSEC violations: Violations of OPSEC by military members and their dependants and families can result in administrative or punitive action taken against the Marine/Sailor involved. Show support for your Marine or Sailor by being aggressive guardians of operational information!

Family Plans

Who requires a family care plan:

A Family Care Plan is a document that outlines the financial, medical, legal, logistical, educational, monetary, and religious arrangements for the care of the Marine's family members upon the absence of the Marine. The plan must include all reasonably foreseeable situations and be detailed enough to provide for a smooth, rapid transfer of responsibility to the caregiver upon the absence of the Marine. The plan should also be catered to the specific needs of each family situation. A Family Care Plan can be put into place with the support of a local staff judge advocate, legal officer, company first sergeant, or battalion sergeant major. A Marine or Sailor is required to have a Family Care Plan. If any of the below situations apply. The Marine Corps order concerning requirements for Family Care Plans is MCO 1740.13A.

1. Marines who are, or become, single parents of children.
2. Dual military couples with dependents (both members must have a Family Care Plan).
3. Family circumstances when a Marine is solely responsible for the complete care of another family member/dependent.
4. Recurring absences of a spouse through career or job that would require the Marine to be the sole caregiver.
5. Marines placed on immediate availability during rapid response for world-wide deployment contingencies.
6. Families that have any change in status that meets the above listed criteria.

For additional information and helpful strategies, visit www.militarysource.com.



TRICARE Reserve Select (TRS)

Reservists may qualify to purchase high quality, low cost healthcare coverage for themselves and their dependents. Visit www.tricare.mil/ for more information and directions for signing up for this healthcare coverage.

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Find information on the many Veterans Services that are available to you:

- Disability Compensation
- Montgomery GI Bill
- Vocational Rehabilitation
- Home Loans
- Health Care
- Burials
- Cemeteries
- Etc.

Visit www.va.gov for more information about any of the topics listed above.

Debt Reduction for the New Age

By Lisa Philios, Military Spouse Fellowship Program Scholarship Recipient

We currently live in a world filled with electronic innovation. Tablets, wi-fi and smart phones, oh my! These innovations are marketed to make our lives easier. At what price are we willing to pay to keep up with this electronic era? If you find yourself struggling to pay monthly bills try eliminating the following expenses:

Smart Phones: Many smart phones require a data or internet plan. While the aura of smart phones sounds enticing, it may just hurt your wallet. Monthly data plans can cost \$60 per month. Factor in (1) monthly insurance that many people purchase on their smart phones and (2) multiple telephone lines for families and this monthly data expense can skyrocket to triple digits. The math: \$60 smart phone data plan per year = \$720. Switching to a \$30 non-data plan per year = \$360.

Stop Paying for Postage: A great electronic modernization is online bill payment. With the click of a mouse, monthly bills can be paid online eliminating the need to purchase postage stamps all while saving a trip to the post office. You can set up automatic payments to ensure bills are paid on time every month which also helps to avoid late fees incurred for any late payments. The math: 120 bills paid per year = \$53. Switching to online bill pay = \$0.

Cancel the At-Home Delivery Newspaper Subscription: The expense of at-home newspaper delivery can add up quickly by year-end (and that may not include tips for the carrier during the holiday season). There are many newspapers that can be viewed online for free, as well as free newspapers located in the metro-section of major cities. Smaller cities and towns may circulate gazettes which are free as well. The math: one year



newspaper subscription = \$140. Switching to online viewing = \$0.

Double Think E-Books: E-Books are great because they allow easy access to tons of different types of books and only weigh a few ounces. Downloading books can get expensive not to mention the cost of the e-book itself. You can eliminate this expense by visiting the local library. Books, DVDs, CDs and audio books are available at no cost to the borrower! If your library does not have the book you are in search of, the library can ship the book of your choice from a neighboring branch if it is available for no cost. The math: 24 \$10 e-books per year = \$240. Switching to library use = \$0.

Home Phone vs. Cell phone: If you are a household that utilizes both a cell phone and landline you may consider canceling one of them. The math:

elimination of one monthly bill = \$15 to \$50 per month.

Cell Phone Internet v. Home Computer Internet: In an attempt to eliminate redundant expenses, the choice may be to cancel a cell phone data plan or home computer internet. For those folks that prefer to use internet on-the-go, foregoing the home computer internet may be a wiser decision. The math: elimination of one monthly bill = \$10 to \$50 per month.

As with every expense comes a trade-off. If you are not struggling to pay monthly bills there may be no need to cancel certain expenses. However, if your expenses are becoming increasingly difficult to pay each month, decide between the trade-off of keeping or eliminating the bill = paying or saving.

The Thrift Savings Plan: Are You Contributing Yet?

By Miriam Darden Settles, CFP, Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board

If not, what are you waiting for? You are eligible to contribute to the Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) as soon as you begin your military service. Saving for your retirement with the TSP makes sense no matter how many years you plan to serve in the military. If you go the full 20, you'll have your TSP income as a supplement to your military retired pay. If you don't plan to serve that long, you can take a big step now to help secure your financial future.

How do I start my TSP contributions?

TSP contributions are not automatic for uniformed services members. Check with your service's payroll office about its procedures for starting your TSP contributions. You must make your request through your service because your payroll office calculates the contribution and deducts the appropriate amount of money from your pay. You may be asked to use your service's electronic system to begin contributing to a TSP account. If your payroll office allows you to use the paper version of the contribution election form, Form TSP-U-1, you can find it on the TSP website, www.tsp.gov. You can also request it from your

service, or you can call the ThriftLine and have it sent to you.

How can I change or stop my TSP contributions?
You can use the same method you used to change or stop your contributions as you did to start your contributions.

What type of pay can I contribute to my TSP account? As a military member, you have four potential sources of employee contributions: basic pay, special pay, incentive pay, and bonus pay. You must elect a percentage of contributions from your basic pay in order to also make contributions from your special pay, incentive pay, and/or bonus pay. You cannot make contributions to the TSP from your housing or subsistence allowance.

The contributions you make from these sources are tax-deferred. This means the money comes out of your pay before taxes are calculated; therefore, less of your gross pay is withheld for the IRS. However, if you are deployed to a combat zone, your



contributions from pay subject to the Combat Zone Tax Exclusion (CZTE) are tax-exempt. The most important thing to remember about tax-exempt contributions is that they are always and forever tax-exempt - even when you withdraw them. Only the tax-deferred accumulated earnings on those contributions are taxed when you withdraw them.

Are there limits to how much I can contribute? You can contribute as little as 1% of your pay per pay period. You can contribute as much as the Internal Revenue Code (IRC) allows each year. For 2011, the maximum you can contribute from your taxable pay is \$16,500. This is the elective deferral limit. Be aware that this limit applies to all eligible employer plans. So if you are in the Ready Reserve and have a TSP uniformed services account, but you also have another eligible employer plan such as a 401(k) or even a TSP civilian account, the most you can contribute in 2011 is \$16,500. This is true no matter how the amount is distributed between the plans.

If you contribute tax-exempt money, the maximum contribution limit increases to \$49,000 for 2011. This is the annual addition limit. So if you are serving in a designated combat zone, you can put a lot more money into the TSP than the elective deferral limit permits. Remember that your tax-

deferred contributions are still limited to \$16,500 for 2011. Keep in mind that if you also contribute to a civilian TSP account, you are still subject to a combined limit of \$49,000 of employee and agency contributions to both accounts for the year.

If you are age 50 or older in 2011, you can contribute additional money to your TSP account using what is called a catch-up contribution. You can only make catch-up contributions from tax-deferred basic pay; you cannot make catch-up contributions from special pay, incentive pay, bonus pay, or tax-exempt pay. The IRS limits your 2011 catch-up contributions to \$5,500. Once again, if you have both a TSP uniformed services account and another eligible employer plan such as a TSP civilian account or a 401(k) plan, the limit is \$5,500, regardless of how you decide to distribute your contributions among your plans. Remember that the catch-up contribution limit is separate from the elective deferral limit and the annual addition limit. If you've been putting off contributing to your TSP account, see if you can find a way to save a little bit each pay period. It's a lot easier than you think. Visit Ways to Save in the Planning & Tools section of the TSP website to see how making small changes to your daily routine, such as eliminating five text messages or one premium coffee, can add up to big savings.

Live Homework Help Online Tutoring

Live Homework Help Online Tutoring is a free, live online tutoring service for K-12 students, college students and adult learners available 24/7. Students can work with certified tutors on homework, essay writing and test prep in 20 subject areas. The student and the tutor use chat, interactive whiteboards and file-sharing in a secure online classroom. Sessions can be replayed, emailed and printed.

ProofPoint - Real-Time Writing Center: Help with reports, essays, and writing projects, including resume help for the adult learner.

Skills Center – Resource Library: Worksheets, videos and links to standardized exams in all 50

states. Includes GED prep, resume writing, citizenship test prep, and financial literacy resources for adult learners.

Career Tutors – Assist with writing resumes and cover letters, and help translate job experience and volunteer work into a skill set for portable jobs.

Obtain an individual password from Marine Forces Reserve Force Education Officer (MARFORRES), in person, or by phone at (504)697-8128, (866)305-9058, or email at mfeducation@usmc.mil. Only one password per family is allowed.

Tutor.com is closed on Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, New Year's Day, and Independence Day. Tutors pass rigorous subject matter tests; undergo a



7-year criminal background check and an educational background check prior to being hired. Students and tutors are prohibited from sharing

personal information. Sessions are anonymous and are reviewed by Tutor.com for quality control.

Off Base Subsidy Child Care Program

MARADMIN 365-11 provides clarifying guidance for the off-base subsidy child care program. Child care fee assistance is available to Marine families living within the civilian community. Eligibility to receive this service is determined by the Marine duty station and home address. The intent of the child care fee assistance program is to assist geographically dispersed families with the cost of child care so that families may receive quality care at a cost comparable to installation rates. Marine families wishing to participate in the off base fee assistance child care program must meet the following requirements:

1. Live outside 30 miles of a military installation
2. Marine must not be assigned to a Marine Corps Installation

3. Marine must be on active duty and/or a deployed status

Marine families who meet the eligibility requirements will receive maximum fee assistance in the amount of \$3000 annually for up to two children. Families with more than two children in the program will receive fee assistance at a 20% lower rate as many child care programs offer a discount for siblings.

For more information you may contact Marine Corps Community Services (MCCS) at (866)305-9058. You may view MARADMIN 365-11 at www.marines.mil/news/messages/pages/MARADMIN365-11.aspx.

MANGO Languages

Mango basic languages courses teach simple conversation skills for casual students. Each course takes 2-5 hours and can be repeated as often as necessary for fluency. The following languages are available:

- Arabic (Levantine)
- Chinese (Mandarin)
- ESL Arabic (Egyptian)
- ESL Japanese
- ESL Korean
- ESL Spanish (Latin)
- French Basic
- German Basic
- Hebrew Basic
- Italian Basic

- Japanese Basic
- Korean Basic
- Portuguese (Brazil)
- Russian Basic
- Spanish (Latin) Basic
- Tagalog Basic

*ESL is for those where English is the second language.

Marines and family members may register for MANGO languages. To register for MANGO languages, contact the Marine Force Reserve (MFR) education officer at (504) 697-8128, (866) 305-9058, or email at mfeducation@usmc.mil.